

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4169

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SUBJECT: COUNTRY DATA SHEETS

REF: STATE 78166

I. GUINEA

A. ECONOMIC PROFILE

-- POPULATION - 5,822,000 (JANUARY 1978 ESTIMATE BASED ON 1972 GOVERNMENT CENSUS). GROWTH RATE: 2.2-2.8 PERCENT; NUMBER OF BIRTHS PER 1000: 46-51

-- INCOME - GDP: APPROXIMATELY US \$860,000,000 (CURRENT PRICES, WORLD BANK ESTIMATE). PER CAPITA INCOME: US\$ 145. GROWTH OF PER CAPITA INCOME OVER LAST 10 YEARS: NOT AVAILABLE.

-- AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF GDP 1972-1976 (INCLUSIVE): 13 PERCENT PER YEAR (EMBASSY ESTIMATE). GROWTH RATE OF GDP OVER LAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS ACCELERATED STRONGLY IN LINE WITH SHARP INCREASES IN BAUXITE PRODUCTION AND PRICE. HOWEVER, NEW MINES ARE NEARING RATED PRODUCTION

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CAPACITY; THUS INCREASE IN GROWTH RATE WILL PROBABLY SLOW AND GROWTH RATE WILL DECLINE TO MORE NORMAL 3-4 PERCENT PER YEAR.

-- INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS WERE NEGATIVE BUT WERE MADE UP BY DEBT ARREARAGES AND NEGATIVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. RECENT SITUATION REFLECTS

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT. NO DATA ARE AVAILABLE ON RESERVES, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOW BE POSITIVE.

-- TRADE - BAUXITE AND ALUMINA ACCOUNT FOR 98 PERCENT OF EXPORTS, THERE IS SOME EXPORT OF TRIPICAL PRODUCTS. IMPORTS ARE FOOD, TEXTILES, TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCTION SERVICES. GUINEA EXPORTS BAUXITE TO US AND IMPORTS TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT, FOOD, AND MINING EQUIPMENT.

-- LITERACY RATE 15 PERCENT (BASED ON 1972 ESTIMATE)

-- LIFE EXPECTANCY - ABOUT 40

-- PEOPLE PER DOCTOR - APPROXIMATELY 28,890

-- NUTRITION - NOT AVAILABLE

B. POLITICAL SITUATION

-- FORM OF GOVERNMENT - SINGLE PARTY-STATE, UNDER PERSONALIZED LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT AHMED SEKOU TOURE. IDEOLOGY IS THIRD-WORLD SOCIALIST.

-- PARTICULAR PROBLEMS - IN THE PAST GUINEA HAS FELT THREATENED BY HOSTILE MERCENARY ATTACKS AND THE LARGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NUMBER OF GUINEAN EXILES ABROAD. GUINEA'S RECENT RECONCILIATION WITH SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, AND (PREVIOUSLY) FRANCE, AND PRESIDENT TOURE'S 1977 AMNESTY OF EXILES, HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY EASED GUINEA'S SECURITY CONCERNs.

-- RIOTS BY MARKET WOMEN IN AUGUST 1977, STEMMING FROM POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY EASING OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND A BETTER CONSUMER-GOODS SUPPLY IN 1978.

C. HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION

-- INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CRITICIZED GUINEA'S HUMAN-RIGHTS PERFORMANCE, PARTICULARLY REPRESSION OF THOSE CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN ANTI-REGIME PLOTS IN 1970-73 AND 1976.

-- MORE RECENT TRENDS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING; SIZEABLE NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE RELEASED IN 1977, AND GUINEA RATIFIED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN-RIGHTS CONVENTIONS IN JANUARY 1978.

II. U.S. INTERESTS AND POLICIES

A. POLITICAL

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DEVELOPING CLOSER RELATIONS AND COMMON INTERESTS WITH GUINEA, THE US SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE AUTHENTIC GUINEAN NON-ALIGNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE AND TO WORK WITH THE GUINEAN AUTHORITIES FOR PROGRESS ON HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUES.

B. SECURITY

NO FORMAL OR INFORMAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS EXIST BETWEEN GUINEA AND THE US. THROUGH FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE US SEEKS TO ASSURE THAT GUINEA'S RELATIONS WITH NON-AFRICAN POWERS DO NOT WORK COUNTER TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS AND SECURITY.

C. ECONOMIC

TRADE WITH US NOTED IN SECTION I IS BASICALLY MADE UP OF EXPORTS OF HIGH-GRADE BAUXITE. AS WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF BAUXITE AND A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION, GUINEA WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DETERMINING PRICE OF THIS STRATEGIC MINERAL. US INVESTMENT IN GUINEA IS OVER \$165 MILLION OF WHICH ABOUT 97 PERCENT IS IN ONE BAUXITE MINE. GUINEA HAS LARGE HIGH-GRADE IRON ORE RESERVES, OTHER POTENTIAL MAJOR BAUXITE MINE SITES, DIAMOND RESERVES, AND POTENTIAL FOR URANIUM, GOLD AND OTHER MINERAL EXPLOITATION. AT PRESENT US STEEL, REYNOLDS ALUMINUM AND DDI, INC. (DIAMOND MINING) ARE ALL INTERESTED IN INVESTING HERE. IN ADDITION THERE IS SOME US INTEREST IN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT. GUINEA IS RANKED ABOUT EIGHTH IN TERMS OF US INVESTMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

III. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

A. 1. US BILATERAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE

FY 1977 - 800,000

FY 1978 - 1,800,000

FY 1979 - 2,000,000 (APPROX, ESTIMATED)

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2. US PL-480 TITLES I AND II

FY 1977 \$3,300,000
FY 1978 - \$9,500,000

B. IFI PROGRAMS

1. IBRD/IDA 1977-79 ABOUT \$67 MILLION

2. AFRICAN BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT 1977 \$5 MILLION CURRENTLY
EARMARKED

3. ARAB BANK FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT 1977 \$15 MILLION

C. OTHER DONORS

1. FRANCE: TECHNICAL-CULTURAL: 1977-78 13.5 MILLION
FRENCH FRANCS, PLUS 1977-78 4000 TONS WHEAT FLOUR

2. KUWAIT: 1977: \$1 MILLION

3. EEC: 1977-80: \$80 MILLION

1978: \$3-4 MILLION EMERGENCY DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

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4. EASTERN BLOC: FIGURES NOT AVAILABLE, BUT SUBSTANTIAL

5. UNDP: 1977-81: \$42 MILLION

IV. OBJECTIVES OF US ASSISTANCE

TOTAL US DEVELOPMENT AID FOR 1962-1977 WAS ABOUT \$127 MILLION.

A. USAID'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN GUINEA DURING 1960S, LIKE THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, LEFT LITTLE LASTING ECONOMIC IMPACT. CURRENT \$7.5 MILLION AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROJECT SHOULD BE MORE SUCCESSFUL SINCE IT FOCUSES ON TRAINING OF FUTURE PRODUCERS RATHER THAN FOCUSING DIRECTLY ON MEANS OF PRODUCTION.

B. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF PL-480 PROGRAM IN GUINEA ARE HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL. GUINEA IS FOOD-DEFICIT COUNTRY AND HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE OF AID IS: (1) TO ASSIST GUINEA TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD; AND (2) TO BRIDGE GAP UNTIL GUINEA IS SELF-SUFFICIENT. POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR ASSISTANCE IS TO DEMONSTRATE OUR FRIENDSHIP FOR GUINEAN PEOPLE AND ENCOURAGE BETTER RELATIONS.

C. NO. S.A. CURRENTLY GIVEN TO GUINEA

D. US ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA IS NOW CONFINED TO TWO VERY SMALL SAHEL RELIEF PROJECTS, THE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROJECT, AND PL-480. FOOD IS MOST CRUCIAL FORM OF ASSISTANCE FOR GOG; US PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN FEEDING URBAN POPULATION OF GUINEA.

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